

Remarks/Arguments:

Claim 1 has been amended. Claim 2 has been cancelled. Claim 3 has been added. No new material is introduced herein. Claims 1 and 3 are pending.

Claims 1-2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kimura et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,592,163). Claim 2 has been cancelled. It is respectfully submitted, however, that claim 1 is now patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

Claim 1, as amended, includes features which are neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, namely:

...a prediction table...

...a data adding unit...

...an arithmetic coding unit...

... the data adding unit adds specific data at the end of an image data according to a value of the prediction table...

...said arithmetic coding unit codes the specific data after coding the image data...

(Emphasis Added)

These features are supported, for example, on page 8, lines 8-11.

Kimura et al. disclose that an N counter counts a consecutive number of LPSs and a dummy marker symbol is inserted when LPSs occur consecutively. Then a terminate symbol sequence is placed at the tail of the code. (Col. 27, lines 40-46). Kimura et al. further disclose that the terminate symbol sequence has a predefined encoding pattern (Col 11, lines 15-16). Kimura et al. do not disclose or suggest Applicant's claimed features of "... data adding unit adds specific data at the end of an image data according to a value of the prediction table.....said arithmetic coding unit codes the specific data after coding the image data..." (emphasis added). Kimura et al. lack Applicant's feature of adding specific data according to a value of the prediction table. Kimura et al. also lack Applicant's feature of an arithmetic coding unit coding the specific data. Kimura et al. only disclose that the terminate symbol sequence has a predefined encoding pattern and that it is placed at the tail of the code. Thus, Kimura et

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al. do not include all of Applicant's claimed features. Accordingly, allowance of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claim 3 has been added. The features of claim 3 are supported, for example, on page 11, lines 16-21. Claim 3 includes all of the features of claim 1 from which it depends. Thus, claim 3 is patentable over the art of record.

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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LEA/ds

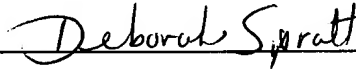
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